

NOVEMBER 17, 1964

The CIA Looks At Soviet World

CIA DIRECTOR John McCone's estimate that the Chinese and Russians are divided almost insurmountably is probably no more than that—an estimate, with at least a 50 per cent chance of being right. Since the CIA admittedly does not know what is going on in the Kremlin, did not know Khrushchev was to be ousted, and has not yet scooped Pravda by revealing where Khrushchev is and how he is faring, the director's judgment of where things stand between the Chinese and Russians at this juncture can hardly be taken for an ironclad certainty.

But in his speech, which was notable because he has never made one before as CIA chief, McCone mentions a situation in the Communist world that we can be sure of, and that is the existence of Russian concern over the trend of their Eastern European satellites toward warmer relations with the West.

The most astonishing recent example of this is the popularity of an American exhibit called "Graphic Arts U. S. A.," which has been showing in Romania. Time was when such an exhibit would never been permitted by the Romanian government. Yet it drew more than 150,000 in Ploesti over a period of 12 days and more than 100,000 at Constanta on the Black Sea. Furthermore, the Romanian press has for more than a year been free of the nasty criticisms of the United States that were formerly a standard feature.

LAST MAY, President Johnson declared that the United States would attempt "to build bridges across the gulf which has divided us from Eastern Europe." These were evidently to be cultural-touristic bridges, but there are reports the Romanians also want trading links.

And that desire is evidently shared in this country. Senator Fulbright yesterday revealed a survey he has taken among American businessmen, who are strong for expanding East-West trade, not only with the satellites but also with Russia. Of 125 businessmen who replied to his questionnaire, 105 favored more active commercial relations, saying that the only practical effect of the strict controls now standing in the way was